

MOTION NO. M2017-118

Adopting Station Names for the Tacoma Link Extension

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Capital Committee	11/09/2017	Recommend to Board	Ahmad Fazel, DECM Executive Director
Board	11/16/2017	Final Action	Madeleine Greathouse, Project Director – Tacoma Link Extension Jeff Munnoch, Community Outreach Director

PROPOSED ACTION

Adopts the permanent station names for the Tacoma Link Extension and renames the existing Commerce Street Station.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- This action adopts the permanent names for the seven stations included as part of the Tacoma Link Extension and renames the existing Commerce Street station.
 - Theater District
 - Old City Hall
 - S. 4th
 - Stadium District
 - Tacoma General
 - 6th Avenue
 - Hilltop District
 - St. Joseph
- The proposed permanent station names meet the naming criteria established by the Board in the Facility and Link System Naming Policy. The policy states that station names should:
 - Reflect the nature of the environment: neighborhoods, street names, landmarks, geographical locations.
 - Be brief, easy to read and remember.
 - Comply with federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and requirements and be limited to 30 characters.
 - Avoid commercial references because they may change, prove confusing to the public, and be costly to change.
 - Avoid similar names or words in existing facility names.
- The Facility and Link System Naming Policy calls for the Board to adopt permanent facility names when it baselines a project budget and schedule (Gate 5 of the Phase Gate process).

BACKGROUND

The Tacoma Link Extension is a 2.4-mile extension of light rail from the Theater District in downtown to the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma. The extension will travel at-grade, in-street with traffic along Stadium Way, North 1st Street, Division Avenue, and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The project includes six new stations, relocates the Theater District Station, expands the existing Tacoma Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF), and provides for additional light rail vehicles.

The project began final design in 2016 and is scheduled to begin revenue service in May 2022.

The Board adopted the Facility and Link System Naming Policy in February 2012. The policy established a process, timeframe, and criteria for naming facilities. The process includes three phases: internally identify and evaluate potential names based on defined criteria; receive input from the public, local jurisdictions, and the Sound Transit Board; and approval by the Board at Gate 5 of the Phase Gate process.

The policy requires public and stakeholder input be received during the 30 percent facility design review process and regular project communications with the public and stakeholders. To meet this requirement, public meetings and materials included discussion of potential names and collection of public feedback. Based on this feedback along with input from the community and partner jurisdictions, Sound Transit extended the station naming public involvement process to include:

- The pre-60 percent milestone for station design and public meeting.
- An online open house with station naming survey promoted on social media and newsletters.
- A 60 percent public meeting and a second online survey on the top station naming suggestions from the public.

In addition to naming the new stations, the Tacoma community requested the Board consider changing the name of an existing station. The station is located at 11th and Commerce Street and is currently called the Commerce Street Station. With the elimination of the Theater District Station on the current alignment, the public asks to rename Commerce Street Station to Theater District Station. Sound Transit outreach has included this in the aforementioned efforts and recommends the Board consider and approve this name change.

After consultation with the City of Tacoma, the permanent station names are recommended as follows:

Temporary Name	Staff Recommend
Commerce Street	Theater District
Relocated Theater District	Old City Hall
S. 4th St & Stadium Way	S. 4th
Stadium District	Stadium District
S 3rd St. & MLK Jr. Way	Tacoma General
6th Ave. & MLK Jr. Way	6th Avenue
S 11th St. & MLK Jr. Way	Hilltop District
S 18th St. & MLK Jr. Way	St. Joseph

PROJECT STATUS

Project Identification	Alternatives Identification	Conceptual Engineering	Preliminary Engineering	Final Design	Construction
				○	

Projected Completion Date for Final Design: Q1 2018

Project scope, schedule and budget summary located on page 65 of the August 2017 Link Light Rail Program Progress Report.

FISCAL INFORMATION

There is no financial impact for this action, as signage costs are not determined until the project baseline budget is adopted. This action results in no change to signage production throughout the Link system as these costs are anticipated and fabrication has not yet occurred.

SMALL BUSINESS/DBE PARTICIPATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION

Not applicable to this action.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Tacoma Link Extension outreach staff provided stakeholders, jurisdictional partners, and transit partners with information about the naming process and the variety of methods used to obtain feedback. We received a total of 586 comments from the public.

Methods included an active station naming table at two open houses, postings on social media inviting public comment on stations design and names online, and the distribution of electronic newsletters with a survey link to more than 3,600 subscribers on the project email distribution list for each of the two surveys. All project communications about potential permanent station names identified the Board as the final authority in determining permanent station names.

Tacoma Link Outreach staff will coordinate additional public involvement regarding the announcement of station names.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one- or two-month delay would not create a significant impact to the schedule.

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution No. R2012-02: Established a policy for naming Sound Transit facilities, including stations, maintenance bases, portals and other facilities and a naming structure for Link system lines and extensions.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

KH 8/3/2017

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 8/3/2017



MOTION NO. M2017-118

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority adopting the permanent station names for the Tacoma Link Extension and renaming the existing Commerce Street Station.

BACKGROUND:

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S 18th St. & MLK Jr. Way	St. Joseph

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the permanent station names for the Tacoma Link Extension and the renamed Commerce Street Station are adopted.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on November 16, 2017.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator